

While the Synod welcomed them with joy, as a prelude to more frequent intercourse and co-operation, and invited them to take seats as members of the Court, and a part in all its deliberations. Having expressed in the warmest terms, through the Moderator, "gratitude to the Church of Scotland in Canada for having sent a Deputation of their number to them, and to the members of the Deputation themselves for executing the commission of the Synod, and coming from so great a distance to visit them," your Deputation were charged to convey to you the sincere thanks of the Synod of Nova Scotia for your friendly remembrance of them in their weakness, and the encouragement they derived from the presence of brethren from afar among them.

The subjects which your Deputation were instructed to bring under the consideration of the Synod met with the most cordial reception, especially the proposal of a closer connection, which in process of time might lead to incorporation and a General Assembly. All the members of Synod expressed their deep satisfaction at the prospect of such an intimate relation, and their desire that it should be speedily consummated. It had long been the desire of their hearts to see the schemes and efforts of the Church of Scotland in British North America centralized, but the prospect seemed more like the visions of a dream than a hope that would ever be realized. One, who, I am happy to say, is now among us, to carry forward, as far as it may be deemed expedient, measures preliminary to that desirable end, expressed himself in language to this effect: "Nothing has afforded me more satisfaction than the very proposal of such a scheme; even the resuscitation of our Church Courts, after ten long years lying dormant, though very gratifying, was not unaccompanied with distrust. I trembled when I looked at the fewness of our Ministers, the extent of the field of labour, and the destitution of our numerous congregations. We were isolated, widely scattered, and consequently feeble. But, with the sympathies of the Church of Scotland and of our brethren in Canada, I feel that we are now strong; I feel that we are *really* connected not only with an Institution which, with the blessing of Heaven, has perhaps been the most efficient that the World has seen, for diffusing in purity and simplicity the doctrines and inculcating the precepts of the blessed Gospel; but I also feel that we are connected with our brethren in this extensive continent, employed in the same great work with ourselves, and, though the field is extensive and the labourers are few, yet the promised aid of Heaven at once encourages to more earnest exertion, and forbids despair."

From the impressions made on the minds of your Deputation, they will venture to express their conviction of the desirableness of the incorporation of the Churches in British North America, in connection with the Church of Scotland, and the hope that immediate steps will be taken towards the accomplishment of this end; leaving it to the respective Synods to begin and follow out those measures that to them in their wisdom may seem best to secure an object desired by them all.

The only thing that seemed to stand in the way of an absolute union of all the Churches in British North America, in connection with the Church of Scotland, is the want of provision for the widows and orphans of Ministers deceased in the Synods of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. In respect to the former, this obstacle seems in a fair way of being removed. Ministers were persuaded that a well organized and a faithfully executed scheme for this purpose will be attended with many advantages to the Church itself, while it will alleviate the anxieties and distractions of thought that will constantly intrude on a Minister's mind in respect to the young and unprotected members of his family, for whom no provision is made, and which from him in the providence of God be removed from them, and which from the well known condition of the pastoral office in this country he is unable to make for them, and thus withdraw much of his attention from the peculiar functions of his office. It will also encourage many to enter on the ministerial vocation, who might be deterred by the prospect of those on earth dearest to them exposed to all the privations of penury and want, when their own lives of ceaseless labour and anxiety in their Heavenly Master's service had drawn to a close.

The Laymen also expressed a deep sense of the desirableness of such a scheme as will provide for the widows and orphans of Ministers, frankly admitted their personal obligation to take an active part in this work, and generously offered to give their hearty co-operation in any scheme that the Synod would approve of. Whether the statute that provides for the management of the scheme for the Synod of Canada will permit the incorporation of the Synods of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, or whether separate schemes under local management would be most advantageous, are matters of detail, which your Deputation do not feel called on to discuss.

With regard to young men who desire to enter on the ministry,

your Deputation laid before the Synod of Nova Scotia the advantages to be derived from a course of study at Queen's College, especially the strict superintendence of their studies and their morals, as they would be almost continually under the eye of the professors. The only question that arose on this point was, whether these advantages might not be compensated by the higher degree to which theological education, including classical studies, is carried in the older colleges of Scotland, and the emulation and love of study that would be generated by mingling with greater numbers having kindred pursuits, and where the mental faculties would be constantly exercised by literary intercourse with advanced students. These are topics on which different views will be taken by different individuals.

A general wish was entertained by members of the Synod that in process of time a Theological School for training young men for the ministry might be instituted among themselves, and, if it were practicable, that it would be connected with Queen's College.

A deputation from the Synod (in session assembled) of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia waited on the Synod in connection with the Church of Scotland, to express a desire for more frequent fraternal fellowship, and friendly co-operation in all good works. While they were not yet prepared to surrender the points of difference between them and their brethren of the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia, they frankly acknowledged their high respect for the Parent Church, their sincere appreciation of her many excellencies, her efficiency, as an institution, for carrying forward the work of their common Master. They had sprung from that Church; they held the same standards, observed the same forms of worship, and, the points of separation being of a minor nature, they hoped that soon a way might be opened up to perfect union with their brethren of the Church of Scotland, in the same field of labour with themselves, for whom they expressed the highest esteem. But, while they differed on points that were not of essential importance, they saw nothing to stand in the way of mutual confidence and harmonious action in a cause common to both, without any compromise of principles on either side.

The Synod in connection with the Church of Scotland cordially reciprocated these sentiments, and, while with all of their brethren of the Presbyterian Church they had ever lived in terms of friendship and Christian charity, they hoped that the sentiments which bound them together might continue to grow till all come to be of one heart and of one mind; at the same time admitting that they did not feel it to be their duty to resign the advantages derived from their close connection with the Church of Scotland. While gratitude and affection, as well as a sense of duty, bound them by the strongest ties to the Church of their fathers, they were persuaded that any union with others, that would tend to disconnect them with her, would rather destroy than promote that catholicity which was the ostensible reason for union with these seceding brethren; but, while they were prepared to maintain their connection with the Church of Scotland, and felt it to be their duty to their people, and the general interests of Religion in the Province, as well as to themselves, in their ecclesiastical capacity to put forth every proper means to draw closer the ties that bound them to the Parent Church; at the same time they begged to express in the most cordial manner their respect for their brethren, both collectively and individually, and their readiness to enter on any course of action that would strengthen each other's hands in their respective spheres of labour, and cherish those sympathies that had hitherto distinguished their intercourse.

The finest Christian feelings evidently pervaded both bodies in their conferences. Such a spirit, maintained in sincerity and truth, cannot fail to be productive of the happiest effects, both in regard to clerical intercourse and church communion, as well as in the propagation of true and undefiled religion within the spheres of their labour.

Your Deputation in the course of their mission met with several of the members of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, were welcomed in the kindest manner among them, and on more occasions than one addressed their people, and felt sincere gratification in the interchange of affection and regard.

At the rising of the Synod a general meeting of the members of the Church of Scotland in Halifax was called to confer with the Synod and your Deputation on the affairs of the Church. The assembly was large, and addressed in several very effective speeches both by the lay members and ministers who were present. Mr. McKid in an able and luminous manner detailed the object of this Synod's mission to Nova Scotia. Mr. Attorney-General Young, in a speech replete with eloquence and many touching allusions to the history of the Church of Scotland and the early associations of his youth (he and one of your Deputation being class-fellows at Glasgow College,) gave a view of the position of the Church of Scotland in